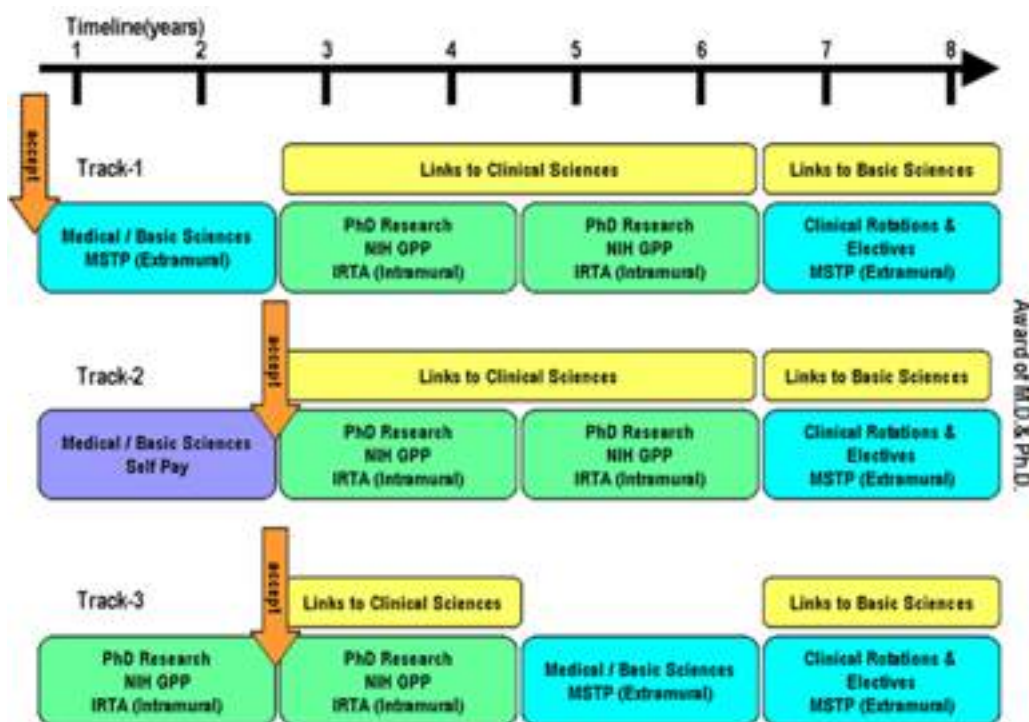


## MD/PhD Program Entry Tracks

**Track 1:** Simultaneous admission to both programs. Undergraduate or Post-Baccalaureate students can apply for MSTP programs at medical schools and the GPP during the same admission cycle. If admitted to both programs, the student can enter the partnership MSTP with permission of the GPP and MSTP program directors. The sequence of training in this track would in most cases be similar to the usual MSTP training pathway (see timeline). Students must apply to medical schools for combined-degree training to be considered for the partnership pathway

**Track 2:** Admission to Ph.D. training from medical school. Medical Students can apply to an NIH GPP program, and begin graduate training generally after completing the pre-clinical medical school curriculum. Students in 'year-out' programs such as the [NIH-HHMI Research Scholars Program](#) or the [Clinical Research Training Program](#) can also apply for Ph.D. training in this track. Upon acceptance to the GPP, students can then apply for MSTP status to the MSTP program of their medical school.

**Track 3:** Admission to medical school and an MSTP during Ph.D. training. Students wishing to pursue this pathway should apply to medical schools for combined degree training (not medical school only) so their applications are considered by the MSTP admissions committee at the medical school. Applying to this pathway during the first or second year of Ph.D. training is preferred so the training can be as integrated as possible.



## Benefits

GPP Students enrolled in combined degree training will receive the enhanced curriculum offered to M.D./Ph.D students at their medical school, which often include coursework and seminars designed for combined degree trainees, as well as modified clinical rotation requirements. While at the NIH, students will participate in ‘bridge’ clinical activities including student clinical rounds, meetings with the [NIH Great Teachers Lecture Series](#) speakers, participation in [NIH Clinical Grand Rounds](#) and the [Demystifying Medicine Course](#), as well as hands-on clinical rounds with experienced NIH physicians.

If the student enrolls at a medical school that receives [MSTP funding](#) and is accepted by the MSTP training program of the Medical School, he or she would become eligible to receive tuition and stipend benefits equivalent to MSTP trainees at that medical school for the remaining years of medical school training. While in the GPP, students are supported by NIH intramural funds and their thesis laboratories. Funding for the medical school will come from the extramural training program of the NIH institute affiliated with the student’s Ph.D. thesis lab, and will be added to the program already administered by the NIGMS.

## Time To Degree

In most cases, doing the combined MD/PhD program at NIH through the GPP should not extend the time required to complete both the MD and PhD degrees beyond what it would be in a traditional MD/PhD program.

## Admission

Admission and specific permission to pursue this training pathway must be granted by the MSTP program of your medical school and the steering committee of the NIH MSTP partnership. The NIH GPP will work with your medical school and its MSTP to make sure the details of this partnership are communicated. There are a defined number of training slots available from each NIH institute and it is possible that in the future there may be competition for these as well.

## Applying

The Web-based applications for NIH GPP training programs are available at the GPP website. Depending on the program, deadlines are in December through February. Admissions decisions are made in March and April. For most programs, either the MCAT or GRE are accepted. In addition to the formal partnerships, students and their mentors can set up an individual partnership between an NIH lab and a lab or graduate program at their medical school that can fulfill the requirements of the program. This should be done through consultation with the NIH GPP office. If you are applying for combined degree training In the personal statement of the GPP application be sure to discuss your reasons for wanting to do combined-degree training and how you will use this training in your future career.

For medical school admissions, students should follow the normal procedures and apply to medical school and MSTP programs at the schools of their choice. If the student is already enrolled in a partnership or committed to one at the time of application, the student should clearly indicate in the personal statement or cover letter which partnership is being considered and the planned course of study. Please send your completed AMCAS application to the GPP and if you are already enrolled in a GPP have a copy of your letters of recommendation forwarded to the GPP.

**Additional Information:**

[Medical Scientist Training Program](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Partnership Flyer](#)

[Partnership Directors](#)